

10/054,650

2

ML 0174 PUS

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) In—~~a~~ [A] rear view mirror assembly comprising a mirror head for mounting a mirror and attachable to the end portion of a vehicle support bracket, said mirror head having an interior surface defining an interior chamber and a periphery shaped to receive said mirror, and clamping means for clamping said mirror head tightly yet turnably to said end portion, the improvement wherein said clamping means comprises:

socket means interiorly of said interior chamber and defining a socket for receiving said end portion, said socket means comprising:

an endwall portion of said mirror head facing inwardly of said interior chamber, said endwall portion having a first opening communicating with said socket,

a clamping plate, said endwall portion and said clamping plate being configured to form a socket for captivating said end portion and constraining said mirror head to turn about an axis through said socket, and

tightening means, at least in part disposed exteriorly of said interior chamber, for forcing said clamping plate and said endwall portion towards one another and against the end portion when said end portion is disposed in said socket whereby to prevent the mirror head from turning relative to the end portion;

said tightening means being accessible while the mirror assembly tightening means is assembled.

Claim 2. (Original) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 1, wherein said clamping plate comprises a resiliently rigid material.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 2, wherein said tightening means comprises:

a first and second aperture being provided, respectively, in said clamping plate and said endwall portion, and

a fastener having a head portion adapted to engage the exterior surface of said mirror head and a threaded portion sized to pass through the apertures and into said interior passage and threadably engage the wall forming said first aperture,

and wherein threadable engagement draws the clamping plate towards the endwall portion into tight engagement with the end portion therebetween.

10/054,650

3

ML 0174 PUS

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 3, wherein said tightening means comprises:

positioning means disposed interiorly of said mounting head for positioning said clamping plate relative to said endwall portion, said positioning means including internally bored first and second bosses, respectively, on said clamping plate and said endwall portion,

a threaded fastener having a head member to engage the clamping plate and a threaded portion sized to pass through the bore in said clamping plate and threadably engage a wall forming the bore in said endwall portion, and

wherein threadable engagement drives the clamping plate towards the endwall portion and into engagement with the end portion therebetween.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

said socket means comprises said clamping plate and said endwall portion each including a first sleeve portion and a second sleeve portion,

said first sleeve portion and said second sleeve portion cooperating to combine and form axially spaced first and second sleeves sized to receive the end portion of said vehicle support bracket and define a longitudinal axis about which the mirror head rotates when the end portion is disposed in said sleeves.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

said end portion comprises a ball fixedly connected thereto, and

said socket means comprises said clamping plate and said endwall portion each including a ball seat portion, said seat portions cooperating to combine and form a ball socket for receiving a ball and within which said ball can swivel and rotate thereby to change the angular position of said mirror head relative to said end portion.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 6, wherein:

said end portion includes a second axial stem connected to said ball, and

10/054,650

4

ML 0174 PUS

said endwall portion includes an opening sized to receive an end portion of said stem, said mirror head being able to rotate relative to the ball when said ball is captivated in said socket.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 7, wherein said socket means comprises:

a plurality of ribs extending upwardly from said endwall portion and to respective arcuate end surfaces which cooperate to form a spherical cradle.

Claim 9. (Original) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 8, wherein the ribs are generally parallel to one another.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 8, wherein said upstanding ribs extend proximate the opening in said endwall portion.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 5, wherein said first and second sleeve portions on said endwall portion comprise a plurality of ribs, said ribs extending upwardly from said endwall portion and to respective arcuate end surfaces to form a cradle for said end portion.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 11, wherein:

said ribs are generally parallel to one another and disposed longitudinally of said arcuate end surfaces in longitudinally aligned relation, and

said mirror head has a second opening provided at a location spaced from said socket means, said second opening being generally longitudinally aligned with said first and second sleeve portions.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A mirror head for securement to a vehicle support bracket, said mirror head comprising:

a head wall formed as an unitary plastic piece and having an interior surface defining an interior chamber and a periphery shaped to receive a mirror,

mounting means for clamping said mirror head tightly yet turnably to an end portion or a ball mount of said support bracket, said mounting means comprising:

10/054,650

5

ML 0174 PUS

socket means interiorly of said interior chamber and defining a socket for receiving either of said end portion and said ball mount of said support bracket, said socket means comprising:

an endwall portion of said head wall facing inwardly of said interior chamber, said endwall portion having an opening communicating with said socket,

a clamping plate, said endwall portion and said clamping plate being configured to form a socket for captivating one of either said end portion and said ball mount, said socket having both a cylindrical section and a spherical section, and

tightening means, disposed at least in part exteriorly of said interior chamber, for forcing said clamping plate and said endwall portion towards one another and against the end portion or said ball mount of said support bracket when said end portion or said ball mount is disposed in said socket to thereby prevent the mirror head from turning relative to the end portion or said ball mount;

said tightening means being actuated from outside said mirror head and said interior chamber.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 13, further comprising:

connecting means for removably mounting said mirror to the mirror head, said connecting means comprising a plurality of engagement openings being formed in the outer periphery remote to said endwall portion for receiving locking fingers extending from said mirror, said connection substantially sealing the interior chamber of said mirror head.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A dual mounting member for mounting a mirror head to a mirror shaft, comprising:

a clamping plate having a central substantially semi-spherical portion, a pair of opposed sleeve portions extending outwardly from the hemispherical portion,

a ribbed endwall portion of the mirror head for mating with the clamping plate and having a plurality of spaced apart discontinuous ribs, the discontinuity forming a hemispherical portion complimentary to the hemispherical portion of the clamping plate, the endwall portion having a pair of opposed sleeve portions extending from the hemispherical portion, and

wherein when the clamping plate and endwall portion are mated the hemispherical portions cooperate to define a ball receiving socket adapted to receive a ball

10/054,650

6

ML 0174 PUS

mount and the sleeves and the socket cooperate to define a shaft receiving passageway adapted to receive an elongated shaft;

a tightening means, at least in part disposed exteriorly of the mirror head for forcing said clamping plate and said ribbed endwall towards one another and against the mirror shaft when said mirror shaft is disposed in therebetween, said tightening means for preventing the mirror head from turning relative to said ball mount or said elongated shaft, and being accessible while the tightening means is assembled;

wherein said dual mounting member can mount a mirror head to a shaft with said shaft either having a ball mount or having an elongated shaft.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) In a rear view mirror assembly comprising a mirror head for mounting a mirror and attachable to the end portion or ball mount of a vehicle support bracket, said mirror head having an interior surface defining an interior chamber and a periphery shaped to receive said mirror, and clamping means for clamping said mirror head tightly yet turnably to said end portion or ball mount, the improvement wherein said clamping means comprises:

socket means interiorly of said interior chamber and defining a socket for receiving said end portion, but capable of receiving said ball mount, said socket means comprising:

an endwall portion of said mirror head facing inwardly of said interior chamber, said endwall portion having a first opening communicating with said socket,

a clamping plate, said endwall portion and said clamping plate being configured to form a socket for captivating one of either said end portion and said ball mount, said socket having both a cylindrical section and a spherical section, and

tightening means, at least in part disposed exteriorly of said interior chamber, for forcing said clamping plate and said endwall portion towards one another and against the end portion or ball mount when said end portion or ball mount is disposed in said socket whereby to prevent the mirror head from turning relative to the end portion or ball mount;

said tightening means being actuated from outside said mirror head and said interior chamber.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) ~~In a~~ [A] rear view mirror assembly comprising a mirror head for mounting a mirror and attachable to the ball mount of a vehicle support bracket, said mirror head having an interior surface defining an interior chamber and a

10/054,650

7

ML 0174 PUS

periphery shaped to receive said mirror, and clamping means for clamping said mirror head tightly yet turnably to said ball mount, the improvement wherein said clamping means comprises:

socket means interiorly of said interior chamber and defining a socket for receiving said ball mount, said socket means comprising:

an endwall portion of said mirror head facing inwardly of said interior chamber, said endwall portion having a first opening communicating with said socket,

a clamping plate, said endwall portion and said clamping plate being configured to form a socket for captivating said ball mount and constraining said mirror head to turn about said ball mount, and

tightening means, at least in part disposed exteriorly of said interior chamber, for forcing said clamping plate and said endwall portion towards one another and against said ball mount when said ball mount is disposed in said socket whereby to prevent the mirror head from turning relative to the ball mount;

said tightening means being accessible while the mirror assembly tightening means is assembled.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 17, wherein said clamping plate comprises a resiliently rigid material.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 18, wherein said tightening means comprises:

a first and second aperture being provided, respectively, in said clamping plate and said endwall portion, and

a fastener having a head portion adapted to engage the exterior surface of said mirror head and a threaded portion sized to pass through the apertures and into said interior passage and threadably engage the wall forming said first aperture,

and wherein threadable engagement draws the clamping plate towards the endwall portion into tight engagement with the ball mount therebetween.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The rear view mirror assembly as recited in Claim 19, wherein said tightening means comprises:

10/054,650

8

ML 0174 PUS

positioning means disposed interiorly of said mounting head for positioning said clamping plate relative to said endwall portion, said positioning means including internally bored first and second bosses, respectively, on said clamping plate and said endwall portion,

a threaded fastener having a head member to engage the clamping plate and a threaded portion sized to pass through the bore in said clamping plate and threadably engage a wall forming the bore in said endwall portion, and

wherein threadable engagement drives the clamping plate towards the endwall portion and into engagement with the ball mount therebetween.